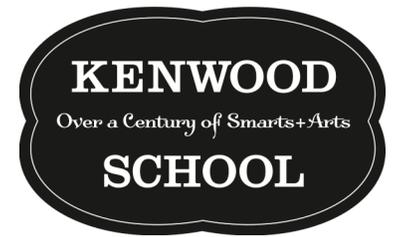


Kenwood Courier

2013 Penn Avenue South

Minneapolis, MN 55405

kenwood.mpls.k12.mn.us 612-688-2760



Dear Kenwood Parents and Teachers,

This is my last Principal's contribution to the *Kenwood Courier*. The *Courier* served as my forum to communicate the events, achievements, and fiscal news related to Kenwood. The words "gratitude and humility" come to mind as I end my tenure of thirty-six years in public education.

A smile instantly comes to mind as I recall a few of my favorite memories at Kenwood;

- *Greeting* students in the morning and saying farewell at the end of the day at Parent Pick-Up in the gym.
- *Walking* with the kindergarten students as the PTA launched their first fundraiser for the school year.
- *Watching* fifth grade students perform sword dances at the annual Barn Dance.
- *Answering* survey questions from the fourth grade students.
- *Listening* to the kindergarten and first grade students passionately beat their drums under the direction of Brother Ghana.
- *Gazing* at the sky while the third grade students anxiously watched as their eggs gently floated through the air. It is hard to quantify the cheers and sighs of relief when some of the eggs survived the flight from the roof of the school.
- *Waving* as the second graders departed school each day on the colorful Como Zoo bus to go off on their week long residency.
- *Hearing* student voices soar as they proudly sang Civil Rights anthems in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. assembly.
- *Applauding* the cast and stage crew as they took their final curtain call for *Shrek*, *Pinocchio*, and *Beauty and the Beast*.
- *Cheering* as our GEMS and GISE teams demonstrated their engineering skills at the citywide STEM competition.

The list of student-centered activities is too long for me to list in this edition of the *Courier*. However, these and many other Kenwood Smarts + Arts events will become cherished memories.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve this dynamic and special community. Witnessing how a community champions for the arts and advocates for the survival of its school will be one of the most powerful and enduring leadership lessons I will take away from Kenwood. I remain humbled by the process of engaging in complex and courageous conversations as we faced difficult decisions around the school budget.

I am genuinely grateful to the members of the Kenwood Site Council, PTA, and parents who supported me as difficult conversations consumed our attention last spring. Moving forward, I am reminded that the interests of all children must serve as the common denominator for the decisions we make for our school. The adults and community members who generously invest and nourish the dreams of Kenwood students have gained my respect and admiration.

I am proud and in awe of this community's steadfast commitment to maintaining an integrated arts focus and fostering an academically rigorous learning environment where all children are encouraged to be their best. Kenwood students are talented, intellectually curious, and resilient children. I believe Kenwood students are poised to make significant and lasting contributions in the arts, humanities, and sciences. I look forward to hearing about their accomplishments as well as their adventures. With a bit of luck, one day I hope to see Kenwood students on the campus of the University of St. Thomas.

As I leave Kenwood, I have a few requests. Promise me that you will continue to be good stewards of the environment by watering the school veggie garden and taking care of the Kenwood Stone Poem Garden. Support our student council members as they learn how to leverage their political voices at the local and national level. Continue to keep the art residencies alive at Kenwood.

Thank you for the kind and encouraging words you have shared with me as I embrace my new academic journey. I wish you the very best in the New Year!

My new contact information is:

Aura Wharton-Beck, Ed.D.
Assistant Professor, Department of Educational Leadership
Mail MOH 217
1000 South LaSalle Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55403-2009
651-962-4887 (p), anwhartonbec@stthomas.edu

Sincerely,
Dr. Aura Wharton-Beck, Principal

In lieu of a retirement ceremony or gifts, we will be collecting notes of gratitude and well wishes for Dr. Wharton-Beck on December 20th, 21st, and 22nd. Please send any notes to the office on those days. If you would like to make a donation to honor her tenure at Kenwood, hurricane relief efforts in Puerto Rico is a cause dear to her heart.
(Hurricane Relief Fund, Ministry Vasijas Inc, Sr. Silvestre Padilla/Sra. Claudina Brinn, Urb. Camino del Sur, Calle Flamingo #452, Ponce P.R. 00716)

Kenwood Silent Auction – March 3, 2017

WANTED: Your time & talents for the Kenwood Auction. The annual Kenwood Auction is on **Saturday, March 3, but planning starts NOW!** This is the largest fundraiser of the year (and happens to be an awesome reason to party late into the night) and we need your help to make it a success. **Specifically, we need to fill the following positions ASAP:**

- **CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP** co-chair/chair - a flexible role that can be taken on from home, as fits your schedule. Helpful, but not necessary to have some neighborhood/local business contacts/relationships.
- **DATA ENTRY** - co-chair - this committee makes certain everything is entered correctly in the Ready Set Auction system (online database). This is a key role!
- **WINE WALL** - chair - a really fun one! Responsible for securing wine donations from families and local businesses, and setting up and overseeing wine wall the night of the event.

Please contact Cindy White cdocteurwhite@gmail.com or Melanie LaMere lameremel@yahoo.com if you are interested. Get involved in the auction. It's an awesome cause and a great way to meet other parents.

Easy Money for Kenwood

Here are some easy ways to send extra \$\$\$ to Kenwood School. **Please note that we are NOT endorsing or pushing particular businesses or products**, but if you already shop at these stores or use these products we simply ask that you take advantage of the bonuses offered to schools.

General Mills BoxTop\$ for Education: BoxTops are found on brands such as Betty Crocker, Pillsbury, Kleenex, Hefty, Ziploc and more. Go to www.boxtops4education.com to find a complete list of participating products. Send your clipped BoxTops (worth 10 cents each) in to the school office. This year Student Council will be in charge of this program.

Kowalski's Market on Hennepin: Kenwood School has a receipt deposit bin at Kowalski's Market on Hennepin Avenue. This is part of their Groceries for Good Causes program. It is meant to help nonprofit organizations like schools. Customers place their receipts in labeled boxes at the front of the store, currently near the doors. A donation is made quarterly based on the total number of receipts (not the amount of money spent) collected in each charity's bin. Thank you to Kowalski's for their latest donation - \$223! The next time you shop at Kowalski's — please remember to put your receipt in the Kenwood box.

Amazon Smile: If you are an Amazon shopper, you can help earn money for Kenwood School. Log into www.smile.amazon.com with your usual amazon user ID. Search for "Kenwood Elementary PTA" as the charity you want to support. Every little bit helps!

A Reminder from the Health Office

It is that time of the year for colds, influenza, stomach flu, strep throat and more! It is known that some viruses and bacteria can live 2 hours or longer on surfaces like cafeteria tables, doorknobs and desks! Common ways to stop the spread of germs:

- Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing
- Clean your hands often - hand washing for 15-20 seconds several times a day helps control the spread of germs and protects you from germs.
- Stay home from work, school and errands if you are sick.
- **Students should not come back to school until 24 hours after the last bout of vomiting, diarrhea or fever (without fever reducing medications). Or until 24 hours after starting an antibiotic if diagnosed with a contagious illness. (Strep throat, pink eye, etc)**
- Please read the take home notices. Your student's classroom teacher will send home notices alerting families of contagious illness in the classroom.

Third Grade Used Book Sale

Mrs. Gregory & the third grade students are gearing up for their annual Kenwood Used Book sale. If you have children's books to donate, please start sending them in with your child. Baskets for books will be set up outside of Mrs. Gregory's Classroom – Room 221 as well as in the atrium. The sale will be organized and run by the third graders on Thursday, December 21st and Friday, December 22nd in the third grade hallway. Books will be 25 cents each. All proceeds of the sale will go to update the book selections for the Kenwood School Book Room, a small room on the second floor which houses multiple copies of books for book club use in all Kenwood classrooms.

Holiday Food Boxes

A flyer went home last week about the Kenwood tradition of helping another family in our school community during the holiday season. Families that are able can choose to donate part of a meal or an entire meal for a family experiencing difficulties. The unprepared (non perishable - ie frozen, canned, or boxed) food donations should be sent to school on the morning of Monday, December 18th. We will need assistance organizing the boxes that morning in the hallway outside the art room. If you can help, please contact Lori Smith at lori.smith@mpls.k12.mn.us. **If your family would like to receive a food box this year, please don't be shy about calling Amanda Talan at 612-668-2784 to request one.** She can also share information about other holiday resources that may be helpful for your family.

Winter Gloves, Hats, and Mittens

The health office has loaned out its entire supply of winter gloves. Please make sure students have appropriate gear for these cold days – kids go outside for recess unless the temperature or wind chill is below zero. If a child borrows some gloves from the office, please make sure they return them so they are available for the next person to borrow. Please check the lost and found before winter break!

Calendar

Monday, December 11
The Lowbrow (4244 Nicollet Ave S)
4:00-9:00pm



Thursday, December 14
Site Council Meeting, 4:00-5:30pm

Monday, December 18
Food donations for holiday boxes due

Thursday & Friday, December 21 & 22
Third Grade Used Book Sale

Monday, December 25 – Friday, January 5
NO SCHOOL – Winter Break

Monday, January 8
School resumes